



Bobcat Fire Morning Update - August 21, 2015

Great Basin Team 5 – Mike Whalen, Incident Commander

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August 21, 2015 – 1000a.m.

Current Situation: Firefighters successfully constructed handline along the southern perimeter of the fire yesterday, with the assistance of a heavy helicopter. An approaching cold front, expected to arrive this afternoon will bring gusty winds expected to challenge the existing lines.

Most of the structure assessments and associated hazard mitigation measures in the Moose Creek, Tower Creek, Fourth of July, and Kriley Gulch areas are complete. A structure protection plan will be complete today. Information officers will be in these areas today to assist and provide information and fire updates to interested public.

Management action points and tactics to manage this fire are evolving and will be communicated should the fire move into an area that requires additional action. In all decisions, firefighters will emphasize public and firefighter safety and property, livestock and resource protection.

A change in acres from 350 to 247 acres is due to more accurate mapping.

Weather: A red flag warning over the fire area is in effect today for gusty winds and low humidity. In association with a dry cold front forecasted to move across the region today, firefighters expect winds of up to 30 miles per hour over the fire area today.

Area Fire Closures: There are no evacuations in effect.

To protect firefighter and public safety, a new area closure is in effect for the areas west of the fire to the Moose Creek and Diamond Creek Roads, Sims Mine, and Napoleon areas. This area closure includes all trails and roads within the area, except for the Stormy Peak Road #023, is closed.

Community Meeting: A community meeting will be held at the North Fork Community Center in North Fork, ID at 4pm Saturday. A fire update will be provided. All are invited to attend.

Public Safety: The fire is visible from Highway 93, south of North Fork, Idaho. All travelers along the Highway and river corridor are asked to please use caution in this area. Please do not stop along the highway as this will increase road congestion and cause additional road hazards.

Helicopters are dipping from the Salmon River. Signs are marked to advise rafters of these dip sites. They will be asked to move to the sides of the river as the helicopters are dipping mid-stream. When helicopter are dipping, rafters need to hold back to avoid these dip sites as rotor wash from these large helicopters can be very dangerous.

We remind the public that flying drones or unmanned aircraft systems within or near the fire area is extremely hazardous to firefighters. If these small aircraft are seen over the fire area, air operations will stop to prevent serious injury or death to firefighters. We ask hobbyists and businesses to please refrain from using these as users may be prosecuted.

Location: 15 miles north of Salmon, ID

Start Date: August 14

Cause: Lightning

Fire Size: 247 acres

Percent Contained: 5%

Total Personnel: 222

Resources:

- 6 crews,
- 3 engines,
- 3 dozers
- 2 helicopters

Additional Info: While firefighters appreciate donations, please refrain from donating supplies to the Incident Command Post. Local volunteer fire departments and food banks that have been supporting firefighters and displaced citizens across the state will gladly accept the community support. The Wildland Fire Foundation is also an excellent resource to contact if interested in supporting wildland firefighters and their families.

#BOBCAT#